Phyllis Cunningham Social Justice Award: Community and Popular Education

Our colleague, Dr. Phyllis M. Cunningham, has made her transition and our hearts are heavy with the loss of our mentor, friend, colleague, and leader in the field of adult education. Arrangements for a service are pending but once the family finalizes we will distribute to electronic mailing lists and post on the departmental website.

In 1996, students established a research award to honor Dr. Cunningham which evolved into an endowed scholarship, Phyllis Cunningham Social Justice Award: Community and Popular Education. The award is intended to reward the contributions made by students and/or community members to the initiatives for social justice, community empowerment and community or popular education and is made possible from an Endowment Fund set up to honor the outstanding leadership and invaluable contribution made by Professor Phyllis Cunningham through her many years of service in the area of popular/community education in the College of Education at NIU. Annually, the award is presented to the selected candidate to be used at her/his own discretion to further strengthen her/his work in the area of social justice, community empowerment/development, and/or popular education. The 2012 recipient of the award, Kathleen Grusenki, was honored at the department's Celebration of Academic Achievement on April 20. Phyllis was able to join us for 2011 Celebration of Academic Achievement and you can see photos of her with the 2011 scholarship recipients, Clara Louis and Moussa Gadio, at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/62739213@N07/.

Contributions to the Phyllis Cunningham Social Justice Award can be sent to the attention of Ms. Debra Thompson, 200 Gabel Hall - CAHE Department, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Checks should be made payable to Northern Illinois University with the name of the scholarship denoted in the memo section. Questions can be directed to Ms. Thompson at 815.753.1448 or cahe@niu.edu.